

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2004
NOTICE OF BALLOT
PROPOSED BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE LA23 POST CODE AREA**

This is to give notice that a ballot is to be held on the proposal of the Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade BID Steering Group to introduce a Business Improvement District (BID) for the LA23 area. A copy of the BID Proposal Document can be found at www.wbcoft.org.uk/BID.htm

The ballot will be conducted entirely by post by the Independent Scrutineer, **Electoral Reform Services ("ERS") of 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW**. Ballot Papers will be sent to those eligible to vote by **Tuesday, 3rd January 2012** for return to the ERS by no later than **5pm on Tuesday 31st January 2012** (the "day of the ballot").

Who can Vote in the BID Ballot?

Persons eligible to vote in the ballot will be the non-domestic ratepayers listed on the Council's database for each hereditament (business premise) situated in the geographical area of the proposed BID as at the date of this Notice who would be liable to pay a levy under the BID proposals. Properties with a rateable value of below £3,000 are exempt from the BID levy as are certain other properties that have been exempted by the BID Proposer and notified accordingly. Each person entitled to vote in this ballot shall have one vote in respect of each hereditament occupied or (if unoccupied) owned by them in the geographical area of the proposed BID.

Appointment of Proxy

Persons eligible to vote in the BID ballot may appoint someone else to vote on their behalf (for example, if they are going to be away at the time of the ballot). Applications to appoint a proxy must be submitted to ERS at the above address no later than **5pm on Saturday 21st January 2012**. An application for the appointment of a proxy must be made in writing and:

- a) state the full name and address of the person whom the person entitled to vote (the applicant) wishes to appoint as a proxy;
- b) state the address of the applicant's hereditament or hereditaments;
- c) be signed by the applicant; and
- d) contain a statement by the applicant that the proxy so named has been consulted and is capable and willing to be appointed.

A proxy appointment may be cancelled by notifying ERS at the address above no later than **5pm on Thursday 26th January 2012**.

Lost Ballot Papers

If a ballot paper has **not** been received by **Wednesday 25th January 2012** an eligible voter may apply to ERS for a replacement paper, in writing. The letter should be addressed to The Independent Scrutineer, The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW. The letter must be signed by the eligible voter and evidence of the voter's identity must be provided in the form of one of the following:

- a) Signed Letterhead for the appropriate company;
- b) A signed photocopy of the National Non-Domestic Rating Bill for the hereditament;
- c) A signed photocopy of an item of personal ID such as a Passport or Driving Licence.

Please do not send original copies of ID or Bills.

Spoilt Ballot Papers

If an eligible voter inadvertently spoils his/her ballot paper in such a manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper, he/she should return it to ERS at the address above.

On receipt of the spoilt ballot paper, ERS will issue a replacement. No replacements can be issued if the spoilt ballot paper is received by ERS later than three working days before the day of the ballot.

Count of Ballot Papers

Ballot papers will be counted on **Wednesday 1st February 2012** and the result of the ballot will be announced by 5pm on that day.

For a BID ballot to be successful there must be a majority of those voting in favour of the proposal, and those voting in favour must represent a majority of the aggregate rateable value of the hereditaments voting.

Rejected Ballot Papers

If a ballot paper is duplicated and two are returned bearing the same number or barcode both will be void and not counted. Any ballot papers that are returned unsigned, unmarked or that are void for uncertainty will also be void and not counted.

Declaring the result

The ballot result will declare:

- a) the total number of valid votes cast;
- b) the total aggregate rateable value of valid votes cast;
- c) the total number of valid votes cast in favour of the BID;
- d) the total aggregate rateable value of valid votes in favour of the BID;
- e) and if applicable, the total number of ballot papers rejected.

For the BID Ballot to be successful there must be:

- i. A majority in favour of the BID in the number of those voting
- ii. A majority in favour of the BID in the proportion of rateable value of those voting

Further details of the BID Proposal

If you require further information on the BID, please contact: Adrian G Faulkner - Secretary, Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade BID Steering Group, 2 Thwaites Howe, 116 Craig Walk, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 3AX - email adrian@wbcoft.org.uk

Alternatively, information on the BID is available at www.wbcoft.org.uk/BID.htm

15th December 2011

Ballot Holder
Debbie Storr, (Corporate Director)
Returning Officer
South Lakeland District Council
South Lakeland House,
Lowther Street,
KENDAL, Cumbria LA9 4DQ